

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/597,216
Applicant : Tamotsu Uchida et al
Filed : July 17, 2006
Patent No. : US 7,522,796
Issue Date : April 21, 2009
Title : CAMERA INTEGRAL WITH OPTICAL FIBER

Conf. No. : 7853
TC/A.U. : 2883
Examiner : Guy G. Anderson

Customer No. : 52054
Docket No. : OHNO-40912

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A Certificate of Correction under 35 U.S.C. 254 is hereby requested to correct Patent Office printing errors in the above-identified patent. Enclosed herewith is a proposed Certificate of Correction (Form No. PTO-1050) for consideration. Also enclosed is documentation in support of this request.

It is requested that the Certificate of Correction be completed and mailed at an early date to the undersigned attorney of record. The proposed corrections are obvious ones and do not in any way change the sense of the application.

We understand that a check is not required since the errors were on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office in printing the patent.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: /jeffrey j sopko/
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Date: June 9, 2009

Appl. No. 10/597,216
Amdt. Dated: December 3, 2008
Reply to Office action of October 3, 2008

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Applicant : Tamotsu Uchida et al
Filed : July 17, 2006
Title : CAMERA INTEGRAL WITH OPTICAL FIBER

Conf. No. : 7853
TC/A.U. : 2883
Examiner : Guy G. Anderson

Customer No. : 000116
Docket No. : OHNO-40912

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

This amendment is filed in response to the Office action dated October 3, 2008 (Paper No. 092108). The three-month period for responding to the Office action expires on January 3, 2009.

Please amend the above-identified application in the following manner.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A camera integral with optical fibers, said camera comprising: a tubular housing having an emission window; and a unitized optical fiber bundle which is a bundle of light guiding optical fibers unitized on an inner surface of said housing, wherein said unitized optical fiber bundle is provided on and bonded to said inner surface of said housing with said fibers bonded together by a bonding agent, and wherein an end section of said unitized optical fiber bundle reaches said emission window to be exposed.

Claim 2 (Original): The camera integral with optical fibers according to claim 1, wherein an exposed surface of said unitized optical fiber bundle in said emission window is on the same level with a surrounding surface of said housing.

Claim 3 (New): The camera integral with optical fibers according to claim 1, wherein said unitized optical fiber bundle is placed like a membrane on said inner surface of said housing.

Claim 4 (New): The camera integral with optical fibers according to claim 1, wherein said unitized optical fiber bundle is divided into two halves corresponding to two emission windows.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes a change to Figs. 11 and 12, which have been marked as being "Prior Art". This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figs. 11 and 12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter in this application.

Figs. 11 and 12 are objected to as being prior art but not being so labeled. The proposed drawing amendment has been submitted as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to the information disclosure statement filed on July 7, 2006, based on 1.98(a)(3), because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Applicant submitted English language abstracts of the cited foreign patent documents in the July 7 filing, which meets the requirements of section 1.98(a)(3). Therefore, the original IDS was in compliance. As a courtesy, Applicant is resubmitting a new IDS citing the two references. Applicant requests confirmation that the references have been considered.

New claims 3 and 4 have been added. Statutory support for the new claims can be found in paragraphs 0050 of the U.S. patent publication (No. 2008/0253724).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 recites "...optical fiber bundle reaches said emission window to be exposed". Examiner is unclear as to what "exposed" refers to in this claim. The word "exposed" should be interpreted to modify the phrase "end section" of the unitized optical fiber bundle.

It appears to the Applicant that the Examiner is under the assumption that the window is a cover for the opening and protects the end of the unitized optical fiber bundle. There is, however,

no cover on the emission window, and as a result, the end section of the unitized optical fiber bundle is exposed at the emission window. Simply stated, the emission window is the opening. Figures 1 and 2 show that an exposed section 15 of the fiber bundle is exposed at the emission window 7. See paragraph 0052 of the U.S. patent publication. As support for this, in Fig. 4 of the publication, it is illustrated that the fiber bundle is pulled through the emission window. This would not be possible if there were covers on the emission windows. Further, in Fig. 2 of the publication, it is illustrated that the unitized optical fiber bundle abuts the surface of the opening/emission window. Again this would not be possible if there were covers on the emission windows.

In Claim 2, the Examiner also expresses confusion on the recitation "...exposed surface of said unitized optical fiber bundle in said emission window is on the same level with a surrounding surface of said housing." Examiner is unclear as how this is achieved. The Examiner is correct in determining that the exterior surface of the emission window is on the same level with the surrounding surface of the housing. As stated above, it appears the Examiner assumes the window is a cover on the opening. However, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the window is the opening and a cover for the opening is not required. Thus, the end section of the unitized optical fiber bundle is on the same level with the surrounding housing surface.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kinoshita (U.S. Patent No. 3,818,902). Applicant respectfully asserts that Kinoshita fails to disclose every element of claim 1. Applicant claims that the end section of the unitized optical fiber bundle reaches said emission window to be exposed. Conversely, the optical fibers in Kinoshita are covered by the illumination window. See Fig. 2, element 6 of Kinoshita. Accordingly, the end section of the optical fibers in Kinoshita is not exposed as defined the claim. Because Kinoshita

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does not disclose each and every limitation set forth in amended claim 1, Kinoshita fails to anticipate amended claim 1.

Claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons as the parent claim.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned agent to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. OHNO-40912.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

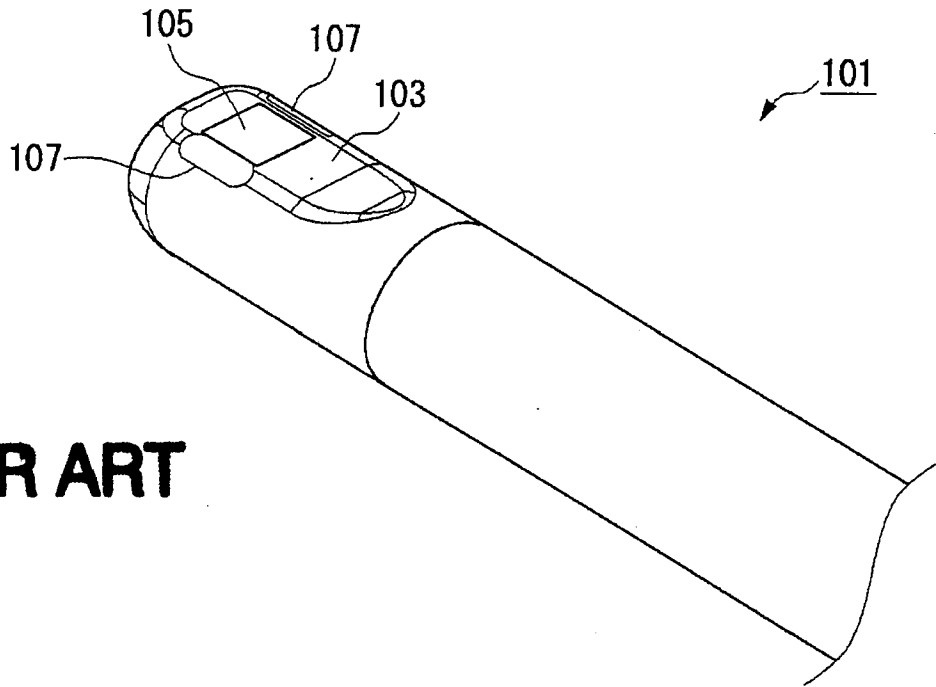
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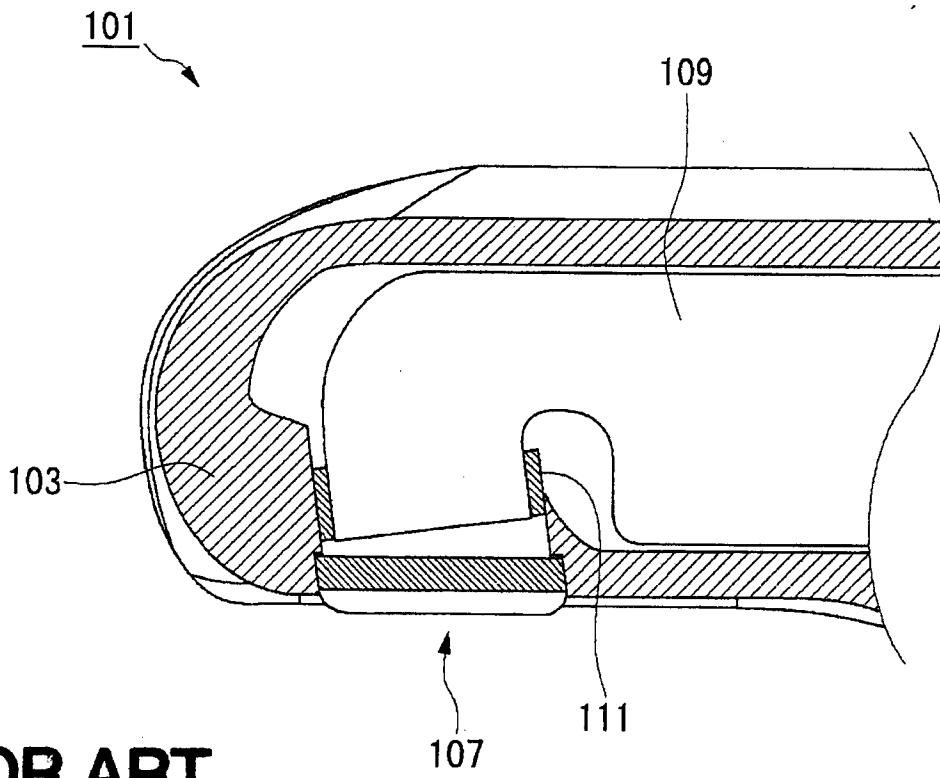
Date: December 3, 2008

FIG. 11



PRIOR ART

FIG. 12



PRIOR ART

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

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PATENT NO. : US 7,522,796

APPLICATION NO.: 10/597,216

ISSUE DATE : April 21, 2009

INVENTOR(S) : Tamotsu Uchida, Kanagawa (JP); Hideto Kato, Shizuoka (JP)

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On Drawing Sheet 10 of 10, Figure 11 should be marked as "Prior Art".

On Drawing Sheet 10 of 10, Figure 12 should be marked as "Prior Art".

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.